REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 24, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14 to 16 and 18 to 23 are in the application. Claims 1, 7, 16 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In response to Applicant's traversal of the restriction requirement and withdrawal of Claims 7, 8, 14, 15 and 20 to 23, the Office Action asserts that these claims are directed to an invention that is mutually exclusive and distinct from the invention originally claimed. In addition, the Office Action contends that the Amendment After Final Rejection filed on October 10, 2006 (October 2006 Amendment) "does not cure the mutual exclusivity and distinctness of the claims from those originally presented." (Office Action, pages 3 to 4).

However, the Office Action does not address Applicant's traversal of the restriction requirement due to the failure of the Office Action to establish, or even allege, that there would be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. (See, October 2006 Amendment, page 9).

MPEP § 808.02 explains that "the examiner, in order to establish reasons for insisting upon restriction, must explain why there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required." (emphasis added). Applicant submits that the restriction requirement remains improper, for at least the reason that serious burden to the Examiner has not been established.

In addition, the Office Action asserts that the scope of the claims of the October 2006 Amendment is "mutually exclusive" with the scope of the original claims. In

this regard, the Office Action contends that "it is clear that the scope of the claim [i.e., the original claim] before amendment was a management device in which data identifying communication control devices is received from the communication control devices and stored in the management device". (Office Action, page 3). However, the October 2006 amended Claim 7 included "A management device", "second data received . . . from said communication control device, for identifying said communication control device", and "memory means for storing . . . second identification data for identifying said communication control device". (October 2006 Amendment, pages 3 and 4). Therefore, Applicant respectfully disagrees that the October 2006 amended claims are mutually exclusive from the original claims. For this additional reason, the restriction requirement is traversed.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, rejoinder of the withdrawn claims, and examination of the rejoined claims on their merits are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,424,660 (Jacobson). Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Jacobson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,764,281 (Seo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to registering identification data by a management device connecting a communication control device and a management center. Among other features of the invention, first and second data are received from a management center that manages a communication control device, and registered in a memory, the first data is for identifying the management device, and the second data is for

identifying the communication control device. In one advantage, when a management device is replaced, for example, due to failure or routine maintenance, the identification data for identifying the management device and the communication control device can be updated more easily.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 defines a management device for connecting a communication control device and a management center. The management device comprises wireless communication means for wireless communication with the communication control device, and memory means for storing first identification data for identifying the management device and second identification data for identifying the communication control device. The device also comprises reception means for receiving the first and second data from the management center that manages the communication control device, and registration means for registering, in the memory means, the first data received by the reception means, for identifying the management device, and the second data received by the reception means, for identifying the communication control device.

Independent Claim 16 defines a method for registering identification data that generally relates to the apparatus of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to receiving data from a management center that manages a communication control device, and registering, in a memory, identification data received in the reception step, for identifying the management device and for identifying the communication control device.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1 and 16, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of registering, in a memory, first data received, for identifying a

management device, and second data received, for identifying a communication control device.

In entering the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 16, the Office Action asserts that Jacobson discloses "a target address (column 3, lines 18-22) that corresponds to the first [sic, second] identification data claimed and identifies the target component wireless interfaces that correspond to the communications control device claimed". (Office Action pages 4 to 5)(emphasis added). However, this assertion is contrary to the disclosure of Jacobson, which teaches "a target address which identifies the intended target of the request. In the illustrated embodiment, reception device 200 is the target of the request rather than another component (such as a television or audio/video receiver)." (column 3, lines 17 to 22 of Jacobson)(emphasis added). Thus, Jacobson's target address is not seen to disclose or to suggest second identification data for identifying a communication control device in the Office Action's characterization of Jacobson. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Furthermore, the Office Action asserts that Jacobson's target address is "stored (i.e., registered) in the receiver identifier storage". (Office Action, page 7). Applicant respectfully disagrees. On the contrary, Jacobson is seen to disclose an IR signal 222 including the target address is received by an IR receiver 202, a command code is extracted from IR signal 222 and transmitted together with a receiver identifier read from a receiver identifier storage medium 206. (See, column 3, lines 14 to 44 of Jacobson). However, Jacobson is not seen to disclose that the target address, or the command code, of IR signal 222 is "registered" in the receiver identifier storage medium 206. While Jacobson may disclose that receiver identifier storage medium 206 is programmable via a

remote control device 220, such that "a user can enter a particular [receiver] identifier to be stored in storage medium 206" (column 4, lines 17 to 33 of Jacobson), Jacobson is not seen to disclose or to suggest that the target address of IR signal 222, or the command code, is stored in storage medium 206.

In sum, Jacobson is not seen to disclose or to suggest registering, in a memory, first data received, for identifying a management device, and second data received, for identifying a communication control device. The remaining cited reference, namely Seo, is not seen to cure the deficiencies of Jacobson, either alone or in any permissible combination. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 16 are believed to be allowable.

Independent Claim 7 defines a management device for connecting a communication control device and a management center. The management device comprises wireless communication means for wireless communication with the communication control device, and memory means for storing first identification data for identifying the management device and second identification data for identifying the communication control device. The device also comprises connection means for connecting the management center that manages the communication control device, and registration means for registering, in the memory means, the first data received by the wireless communication means from the communication control device, for identifying the management device, and the second data received by the wireless communication means from the communication control device, for identifying the communication control device.

Independent Claim 20 defines a method for registering identification data that generally relates to the apparatus of Claim 7, but is more specifically directed to

receiving first and second data from the communication control device via wireless communication, and registering, in a memory, the first data received from the communication control device via the wireless communication, for identifying the management device, and the second data received from the communication control device via the wireless communication, for identifying the communication control device.

The cited references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 7 and 20, and in particular are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of registering, in a memory, first data received by a wireless communication means from a communication control device, for identifying a management device, and second data received by the wireless communication means from the communication control device, for identifying the communication control device.

As discussed above, Jacobson may disclose entering a particular receiver identifier to be stored in storage medium 206. However, Jacobson is not seen to disclose or to suggest registering, in a memory, first data received by a wireless communication means from a communication control device, for identifying a management device, and second data received by the wireless communication means from the communication control device, for identifying the communication control device.

The remaining cited reference, namely Seo, is not seen to cure the deficiencies of Jacobson, either alone or in any permissible combination. Accordingly, independent Claims 7 and 20 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

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